



Director of
Central
Intelligence

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Top Secret

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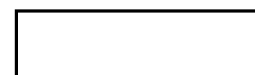
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National Intelligence Daily (Cable)

23 April 1979

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BRIEFS AND COMMENTS

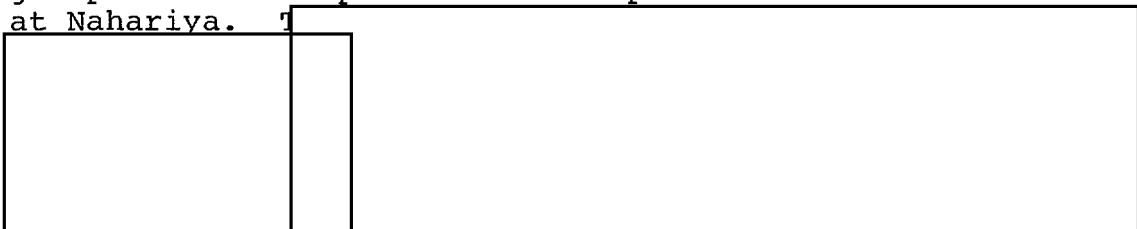
ISRAEL: Retaliation Against Terrorists

The Israeli naval bombardment yesterday of a guerilla base at Nahr al Barid on the northern Lebanon coast belonging to the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine probably was part of Israel's ongoing effort to attack fedayeen bases "wherever they are." The Israelis may still regard as "unavenged" the Palestinian terrorist attack yesterday on the northern Israeli coastal town of Nahariya, in which four civilians were killed, including two small children, and four wounded.

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The Israelis apparently hold a pro-Iraqi splinter group from the Popular Front responsible for the attack at Nahariya.

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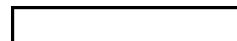
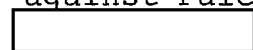


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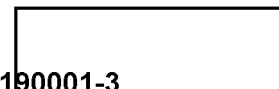
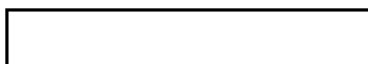
The attack on Nahariya will further strengthen the Israelis' determination to preserve the security and autonomy of the Maronite Christian militias commanded by Major Haddad in extreme southern Lebanon. Prime Minister Begin and other Israeli officials have refused to endorse Haddad's declaration last week of a "Free Lebanon," but the Israeli leadership has at the same time continued to emphasize its sympathy for Haddad and its support for his troops as the first line of defense against Palestinian cross-border attacks.

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LIBERIA: Move Against the USSR Likely

As Monrovia returns to relative normalcy, the government of President Tolbert appears close to implicating publicly the USSR and perhaps Cuba in the riots last weekend. The regime has also embarked on a roundup of leading radical dissidents, although it says it will continue to respect human rights and legal procedures. Liberia is pleased with the quick US response to its aid requests but probably will press for more help to make up for past US "neglect."

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//The government is having difficulty comprehending what has happened and does not see the violence as an economically based expression of pent-up frustration.

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Police have rounded up several alleged ringleaders of an organized protest over rice prices that preceded the spontaneous rampage, and hundreds of other citizens are being held for questioning. According to press reports, the country's two universities have been closed for being "breeding grounds for subversion." The government's quest for scapegoats could further erode its standing, particularly if it proceeds with trials on shaky evidence. Although dissidents have little room for maneuver now, they may hope in the longer term to exploit the regime's weaknesses exposed by the violence.

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On the positive side, renegade soldiers are being apprehended gradually and the reorganized security forces are continuing to draw more members. The regime is also considering salary raises for low-income workers.

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